

SENATE—Tuesday, October 17, 2000*(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, this morning the Senate was jarred awake by the news of the tragic airplane accident that claimed the lives of Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, his son, Randy, and Governor Carnahan's aide, Chris Sifford.

In this difficult hour we ask You to give Your strength and peace to the Carnahan and Sifford families. Bless the citizens of Missouri. Grant Roger Wilson, who at this hour is serving as Acting Governor of Missouri, Your power and fortitude.

We begin the day conscious of the frailty and brevity of our physical life. Our time here is but a small part of the whole of eternity. May we live and work to Your glory in all that we say and do in this busy day in the life of our Senate. In Your all powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the conference report to accompany the Agriculture appropriations bill. Debate on the conference report will be limited in today's session and a short period on Wednesday morning. Therefore, those Senators with statements are encouraged to come to the floor during today's session, if possible. The vote on the Agriculture appropriations conference report is scheduled to occur at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday. However, that vote time may be changed to accommodate those Senators who will be

attending the memorial service for the sailors who died on the U.S.S. *Cole*. Senators will be notified as soon as possible if that change is made.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LOSS OF GOVERNOR MEL CARNAHAN AND OTHERS

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I appreciate the Chaplain of the Senate opening today's session in prayer for Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan and for his son, Randy Carnahan, and for Chris Sifford, all of whom were tragically killed last night in a plane crash in Missouri.

Mel Carnahan and his wife Jean were good friends of mine and my wife Janet. We got to know them through the Governors' Association—a wonderful man, wonderful family man, one of the finest human beings I have ever met. From a personal point of view, my sympathy goes out to Jean, his wife, and to the rest of his family and to the citizens of Missouri. This country lost a great leader.

On behalf of the entire Senate, I express our deepest sympathies to Governor Carnahan's wife Jean and to their sons, Russ, Robin, and Tom, and to their grandchildren, Andrew and Austin. They have lost a father, husband, grandfather, son, a brother, and an uncle. This is a terrible burden to carry, and we wish them God's strength and courage in so doing.

The entire Senate joins me in expressing condolences to the citizens of Missouri who have lost the Governor they elected to serve them at State government. We also extend our sympathies to the family of Chris Sifford.

All of us involved in statewide public office know the dangers of flying across our States for different events. So when a tragedy such as this occurs, it hits especially hard. When I woke up at 6 o'clock this morning to the public radio saying Mel Carnahan and his son were killed, it reminded me how fragile life is and how so often we take life for granted. It also reminded me that each day we live, we should thank God for it and let the people with whom we come in contact know that we love them.

This is a sad day for our country. As I said, Mel Carnahan was truly a great

leader and made a great contribution also to the National Governors' Association.

Many Senators knew Governor Carnahan and will be making remarks today and in the next few days.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I received a phone call early this morning from my personal assistant, Janice Shelton, who indicated to me that Governor Carnahan was dead, having been killed in a tragic plane crash with his son, Randy.

I have watched very closely Governor Carnahan for the last 18 months, as we have watched the most noted Senate race in America this year between two very fine men, Senator ASHCROFT, formerly the Governor of Missouri, and Governor Carnahan. It was a great race to watch because they were so devoted to their different causes. There was distinction between the campaign philosophies. It was a race where the numbers never changed more than a point or two: For 18 months, back and forth, one ahead by a point, the other ahead by a point.

At this time, we realize that those numbers don't mean a great deal, that races in which we are engaged involve good people. Governor Carnahan, what a wonderful man. I got to know him very well, and his wife attended many functions in which I was in attendance. He dedicated his life to public service. The State of Missouri and the country will be less as a result of losing this fine man.

As has been indicated by Governor VOINOVICH, Senator VOINOVICH, our hearts go out to the entire family and the people of Missouri. Also, as Senator VOINOVICH and I were talking before the Senate convened, we have a great amount of sadness for Senator ASHCROFT, who is going through a difficult time now as a result of this, always wondering, having flown around the State himself, as we all have, trying to understand this life that we lead. So not only do I extend my sympathy to the Carnahan family, but also to Governor ASHCROFT, and the fact that in this country we can have people who have strong beliefs, differing beliefs, yet people of great moral certitude who believe very strongly in their causes. That is what makes this country as great as it is.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I came to work today. It is with a great deal of sadness I am with the Dean of the Senate and Senator VOINOVICH who